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LETTER DATED 19 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the decision defining the new mandate of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States in Sierra Leone, signed on 25 August 1999 by the current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Community (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

Annex

[Original: English and French]

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

DECISION C/AHSG/DEC.1/8/99 REDEFINING THE MANDATE OF ECOMOG IN SIERRA LEONE

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT;

Mindful of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty establishing the Authority of Heads of State and Government and defining its composition and functions;

Mindful of Article 8(2) of the Revised Treaty relating to the chairmanship of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS;

Mindful of the Final Communique emanating from the twenty-first Authority of Heads of State and Government meeting, notably paragraph 32 which states that Heads of State and Government have unanimously elected the Republic of Togo as the Chair of ECOWAS for 1998 - 1999;

Mindful of Decision A/DEC. 7/8/97 extending the scope of ECOMOG activity and mandate to cover Sierra Leone;

Mindful of the ECOWAS Peace Plan for Sierra Leone signed in Conakry on 23 October, 1997;

Mindful of the Ceasefire Agreement signed in Lome on 18 May 1999;

Mindful of the Peace Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front signed in Lome on 7 July 1999;

Considering that the twenty-first session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government had recommended that the Sierra Leonean crisis should be resolved through a combination of dialogue to foster national reconciliation, and the strengthening of ECOMOG;

Considering that, pursuant to consultations held with his peers, the ECOWAS Chairman initiated and organised internal dialogue between the leader of the Revolutionary United Front and his lieutenants;

Considering that negotiations organised between the Sierra Leonean parties by the ECOWAS Chairman led to the signing, in Lome, on 7 July 1999, of a Peace Agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone;

/...

c) in conjunction with UNOMSIL, disarm all fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF/SL), the civil defence forces (CDF), the ex-Sierra Leone Armed Forces (ex-SLA) and paramilitary groups;

d) establish road blocks and check points to check movement of arms and ammunition and assist in directing refugees and displaced persons;

e) man entry points (land, sea and air) in order to prevent illegal movement of arms and ammunition into or out of the country;

f) conduct confidence patrols to provide free movement of people and easy distribution of relief materials;

g) conduct cordon and search operations to recover hidden arms;

h) provide protection and escort duties to VIPs including Government officials, UN officials and NGO personnel involved in humanitarian relief activities;

i) clearing of land mines and opening of all major roads to commercial activities and normal civilian traffic;

j) deployment of troops in all Disarmament Centres and arms collection sites to enhance disarmament and provide security to encamped ex-combatants;

k) restrict the ex-SLA to the barracks and supervise the return of arms and ammunition to armouries and magazines;

l) establish safe corridors and locations for the settlement of refugees and the distribution of humanitarian relief materials;

m) provide assistance in the screening of combatants;

n) provide security for the weapons and ammunition retrieved during disarmament and demobilisation, as well as the arms depot;

o) assist in the destruction of recovered arms and ammunition;

p) conduct security patrols, guarding of Key-Points (KPs) and Vital-Points (VPs);

q) supervise the withdrawal of mercenaries from Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Commission;

r) supervise technical assistance with regard to the de-mining, dismantling or destruction of all devices and similar weapons.

Article 2

The Force Commander shall report to the Chairman of Authority, through the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the ECOMOG mandate.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community. It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette.

DONE AT LOME THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST, 1999.

(Signed) H.E. GNASSINGBE EYADEMA
CHAIRMAN
FOR THE AUTHORITY